

**REMARKS**

Independent claim 1 has been amended to better define the claimed invention and better distinguish the claimed invention from Sato et al. More particularly, independent claim 1 has been amended to stress that Applicant's process is a two step sequential process performed without breaking vacuum whereupon the first and second nitrite films deposited together have a greater thickness at the upper region as compared to the side regions and lower region. This is nowhere taught nor suggested by Sato et al. All that Sato et al. teaches is how ammonia flow rate and monosilane flow rate contribute to variations in film thickness differences. There is no teaching nor suggestion contained within Sato et al. of a two-step deposition process in which the ammonia and monosilane flow ratios are adjusted to provide a deposited film having different thicknesses at different regions as required by claim 6. Accordingly, claim 6 and the several claims directly or indirectly dependent thereon cannot be said to be obvious from Sato et al.

Form PTO-2038 authorizing credit card payment in the amount of \$905.00 to cover the cost of the Petition for Three Month Extension of Time and the Request for Continued Examination accompanies this Amendment.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please  
charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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